

June 29-July 1, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

State Supreme Court Recognizes Michigan Citizens for Jury Service during July Juror Appreciation Month, Encourages Others to Serve Throughout the Year

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Clerk candidate dispute delays Detroit absentee ballots

"City clerk candidate D. Etta Wilcoxon won a ruling to be placed back on the Aug. 6 primary ballot, and her challenge has put the city's absentee ballots on hold. The city has delayed the mailing of nearly 24,000 ballots to city residents for nearly a week.... City officials are set to appeal [to the Court of Appeals.]"

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Judge: Lesbian couple can proceed with Michigan adoption ban lawsuit

"A federal judge Monday refused to dismiss a lawsuit filed by two lesbians that challenges a state ban on adoption by unmarried couples.... The lawsuit is led by two Detroit-area lesbians who are raising three children. State law says that April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse can't adopt them as a couple, because it is an option available only to heterosexual married couples."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Judge: Lesbian couple can move forward with adoption ban lawsuit

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Snyder to sign bills to improve indigent defense

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is poised to sign legislation aimed at improving legal representation for low-income criminal defendants. The bills create a permanent state commission to establish standards that ensure effective counsel is given to poor defendants."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Snyder to sign bills to improve indigent defense

[Full story](#)

The Courier-Leader/Paw Paw: Judge Hamre to retire from county bench

"Van Buren County Circuit Judge Paul E. Hamre announced this week that he will retire from the bench, effective Aug. 2. Hamre was elected to the judicial position in 1996, and was re-elected in 2002 and 2008. His current term expires Dec. 31, 2014."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Microsoft case study highlights Michigan court's website

"Michigan's 'One Court of Justice' website is the focus of a recent Microsoft case study, praising the site as 'clear, concise, and intuitive.' The Court's website was redesigned in 2012, using Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Microsoft case study highlights Michigan's "One Court of Justice" website

[Press release](#)

Detroit Legal News: Business courts set to open in 17 counties (second article)

"Similar courts have been used in other states for decades, but they're just getting ready to take off in Michigan. A law passed last year requires circuit courts with three or more judges to establish such courts."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Grand Haven Tribune: Business courts scheduled to open in 17 counties

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: State court recommends consolidation of Flint and Genesee County district courts

"Flint's 68th district court should combine with the county's 67th district court, according to recommendations released by the state Supreme Court administrative office. The city court would also lose one of its five judges through attrition, while the county court would gain a judge."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Cadillac News: State won't cut Wexford County district court judge

[Full story](#)

Recommendations to cut, add judgeships detailed in judicial resources report

[Press release](#)

Grand Rapids Press: State Supreme Court stands behind Ottawa County jury decision sending teen killer to prison for life

"The state's highest court affirmed that a Zeeland teen had more than enough time to decide whether it was a good idea to murder a friend and romantic rival by stabbing him multiple times and hitting him in the head with a shovel."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Terrence Bell's prison sentence unchanged in re-sentencing on sexual assault

"At one point breaking down, Terrence Bell apologized Monday for the actions that landed him in prison for at least nine years and asked [Circuit Court Judge J. Richardson Johnson] to re-sentence him to 'the lowest of the low' end of the sentencing guidelines in his sexual assault case."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Terrence Bell's prison sentence unchanged in re-sentencing on sexual assault

"At one point breaking down, Terrence Bell apologized Monday for the actions that landed him in prison for at least nine years and asked a judge to re-sentence him to 'the lowest of the low' end of the sentencing guidelines in his sexual assault case.... Bell's remarks came just before [Kalamazoo County Circuit Court Judge J. Richardson] Johnson re-sentenced Bell on felony charges stemming from his sexual assault of a Kalamazoo Public Schools special-needs student."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Court reporting cited as top paying career

"The court reporting profession was recently showcased as a top paying career that requires no college degree in an online article posted by the internet career site Monster.com, according to the National Court Reporters Association."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Law school graduates face tough job market, high student loan debt

"The caps and gowns have been folded and put away and the celebratory balloons have shriveled. But for law school graduates busy studying for the upcoming bar exam, the balloons aren't the only thing that's deflated: so are their chances of finding a job and paying down six-figure student loan debts, particularly for graduates of the state's two private law schools."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Foster Care Review Board seeks award nominations

"The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) is seeking nominations for its annual Child Welfare Awards which honor judges, lawyers, foster care workers, and foster parents for exemplary service to children in Michigan's foster care system.... The deadline is Friday, Sept 6."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Nominations Open for Child Welfare Awards; Foster Care Review Board to Recognize Service to Abused and Neglected Children

[Press release](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Attorneys lambaste judges again in Bench Bar Culinary Challenge

"Despite gritty determination to wield the barbecue fork with the finesse usually reserved for the gavel, the judges were trounced again in the grill competition at the 6th Annual Bench Bar Culinary Challenge held on Wednesday, June 12, in Huntington Woods."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: 'We owe them a debt': Veterans courts on the rise in Oakland County

"More veterans will be receiving concentrated attention around Oakland County when two new Veterans Treatments Courts start operations this summer.... Starting veterans programs are Oak Park's District Court Judge Michelle Friedman Appel on July 15, and Waterford Township's District Judge Jodi Debbrecht Switalski on July 31. Novi's 52-1 Judge Brian MacKenzie started his veterans court in 2010."

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Sobriety Court helping many; Tough program, good results

"One by one, each active participant in the St. Joseph County Sobriety Court "took the stand" in Judge Jeffrey Middleton's courtroom Tuesday afternoon to report on his or her progress in overcoming addiction and getting life back on track."

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Courts building overhaul? Commission seeks appraisal

"St. Joseph County commissioners gave approval to county administrator J. Patrick Yoder to seek a proposal from Pearson Construction of Benton Harbor on a potential major re-configuration of the county

courts building.... Yoder said that every single structural/mechanical item in the building will be assessed, with Pearson then to create a request for proposals if the project moves to that point."

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Let It Rip Weekend: Chief Craig, Gay Marriage & 36th District Chaos

"... [W]ith the 36th District Court backlogged with cases and way over budget, the State has stepped in to clean it up. We talk to the man with the broom, Michigan Appeals Court Judge Michael Talbot."

[Full story](#)

Note: Click on the "Next" button to go to part three regarding the 36th District Court (3:54 minute podcast).

Also see:

Washtenaw County Legal News: New jury program good for taxpayers

[Full story](#)